

# Scott Spouses Newsletter

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## Airport Gate Passes Available for Military Passenger Family Members

In January 2004, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a security directive pertaining to military passengers that allows the airlines to issue a special access pass that allows family members to accompany the service member through airport security checkpoints or to meet them at the arrival gates.

According to TSA Security Directive 1544-01-10w (Access to Sterile Concourse for Non-traveling Individuals), Military Passenger Family Members may be given a pass to escort the military pas-

senger to the gate or to meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate.

According to a TSA spokesperson, family members who want to escort the service member to the departure gate need to process through the ticket line when the service member checks in. The airline will issue the special access passes and the group will need to proceed through the security station at the same time.

Family members who want to meet their service member at the arrival gate should first check to see if the airport has a USO

Office. The USO is working with TSA and the airlines to secure the special access passes. If the airport does not have a USO Office, family members should go to the ticket counter of the airline that the military member is flying on and request the passes. Family members will need to present the pass and photo ID to get through the security checkpoint.

The TSA spokesperson said that not all airports and airlines are able to issue the special access passes to meet returning service members at the gate due to local security situations. She added, one way to make this process easier is for the traveling service member to inform the ticket agent at check in, that family members will be contacting the ticket office at the arrival destination to request the special passes.

*From the Marine Corps Community Services website News Release page available at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/News/newsrels/newsrels.html>*



## Angels in April Toy and Clothing Drive Underway

You can support National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Blue Bow Campaign by participating in the Angels in April toy and clothing drive.

- Take an angel from the tree. (Each angel represents an abused or neglected child living in a local foster home or shelter.) The trees are located in the Base Exchange, Commissary, Library, Main Hospital, Family Practice Clinic, Child Development Centers, Youth Center, Family Advocacy, & Family Support Center.
- Be an "earth angel" & purchase a NEW set of clothing, a NEW pair of shoes, and NEW toy(s). (Please, only NEW items. Hand-me-downs, cast-offs, and leftovers are too frequent for these children. Let's treat them as we would our own children.)
- Let these children know that "earth angels" care about them year-round, not just during the Christmas season.
- Teach **your** children care & concern for the less fortunate, the spirit of giving, and that they are blessed

to be in a loving home.

- Return your gifts to the location where you picked your angel or to the Family Advocacy Office, building 1533, no later than 30 April.



*Sincerest appreciation to the agencies listed and to the Scott AFB Integrated Delivery System (IDS) for their support of this program. For more information, call the Family Advocacy Program at 256-7203.*

## Family Services Provides Coupon Exchange Program

Did you know that Family Services has a coupon exchange available for the Scott community? Volunteers sort and categorize coupons into convenient containers. Simply browse the selections

you are interested in and take the coupons you want. The service is entirely free. Donated coupons are always needed to perpetuate the process.

Family Services is located in build-

ing 4141 on Nebraska Street, beside the Airman's Attic. Hours of operation are 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, please call 256-3616 or 256-3936.

"The family is the cornerstone of our society.  
More than any other force it shapes the attitude,  
the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child."

*Lyndon Baines Johnson*

## Program Offers Subsidized Child Care to Guard, Reserve

3/7/2005 — WASHINGTON (AFP)—Department of Defense officials have joined forces with national agencies to help Guard and Reserve families in finding and affording child care while a parent is deployed supporting the war on terrorism.

"Child care, as you know, is one of the top (concerns) voiced by families as well as by commands on what's needed," said Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's office of children and youth. Her staff monitors the new program, dubbed Operation Military Child Care.

DOD officials, who are working with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, designed this initiative to benefit those who do not live near military installations, Ms. Witte said.

"We have a contract with (the association) to assist us in finding spaces outside the military community for those Guard and Reserve (servicemembers) who are deployed and active-duty (people) who are not near a military installation," she said. "We also hope to assist in reducing the out-of-pocket expense to the servicemember."

When a parent is deployed, she said, the remaining parent may discover that child care is something the couple had not had to think of before. And need is not the only consideration. The extra expense can be shocking.

While Mr. Witte's office does not fully subsidize child care, it does work to reduce the financial burden, she said. The fees are based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration total family income and the care provider's actual cost, among other things.

To take part in the program, a family member can apply through the association on the operation's Web site or by calling toll-free at (800) 424-2246. The child-care provider also must apply—an important step because of how the subsidy is paid out, Ms. Witte said.

"The subsidy goes to the program, not to the individual," she said.

The program officially kicked off March 3, but has been operational as a pilot program since November, Ms. Witte said. About 40 families have completed the application process.

"We feel like this is one area to provide assistance for the total force," she said. "We had not been doing much prior to this time for the Guard and Reserve as far as child care and school-age programs have gone."

She said the new program could get about 5,000 Guard and Reserve servicemembers' children into child care.

But that number could fluctuate if there is a change in the funding, she said, which comes in the form of supplemental funding through Congress. Congress has funded the program for \$7 million, Ms. Witte said, though officials hope to expand the program in the future to try and accommodate some of the 38,000 children of active-duty servicemembers in need of child care.

The association also supports Guard and Reserve servicemembers through a

program called Operation Child Care. It is a voluntary program that provides up to six hours of free child care to Guard and Reserve families whose deployed servicemember is returning home for rest and recuperation.

"(The association) felt it was service back to the nation to thank the servicemembers for their sacrifices," Ms. Witte said.

*By Samantha L. Quigley  
American Forces Press Service*



# Vets Centers Offer Grief Counseling to Military Families

WASHINGTON, March 2, 2005 — In an unprecedented expansion of its traditional client base, the Department of Veterans Affairs is offering grief counseling to families of servicemembers who die while on active duty.

VA's Office of Readjustment Counseling offers the counseling services at its 206 community-based Vet Centers throughout the United States, including Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Greg Harms, program analyst for the counseling program, said 412 military family members—from spouses to children to siblings, parents and even grandparents—have taken advantage of the program as they struggle to cope with the loss of their 276 servicemembers. Most were killed during deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Expanding its services to serve veterans' families represents "quite a leap and a real innovation" for VA, acknowledged Charles Flora, associate program director. But he calls the offering of bereavement counseling to family members "a natural extension of what we already do for veterans."

Who, Flora asked, is more deserving of VA assistance than families who have sacrificed their husbands, wives, children, brothers, sisters or grandchildren in support of their country?

The program also serves families of reservists and National Guardsmen who die while activated for federal duty.

Some families seek the VA's counseling services immediately after learning of their loved ones' loss, while others wait until later, often after an impor-

tant milestone such as a birthday, holiday or the one-year anniversary of the death has passed, Harms said.

"Everyone grieves differently. It runs the full gamut," he said. "There are no standard operating procedures for grief."

As a result, services offered run the full range, from one- or two-time visits to weekly sessions, depending on the family member's needs.

Regardless of the level of help needed, the VA service offers all its clients a common variable: a safe, caring environment where a professional bereavement counselor helps them work through the emotional and psychological issues associated with their loss.

"They're looking for support, looking for someone they can talk to who will

listen and understand," Harms said. "A lot of what people need," added Flora, "is a place where they can sit down, take a breath and tell their story in a

calm place where they can put things into perspective."

While all grief counselors are able to provide that service, the Vet Centers provide something many clients call a big plus: More than half the staff at the Vet Centers are veterans themselves who understand the military lifestyle as well as the tremendous sacrifice the families have made.

Counselors go out of their way to respond to families' needs, often meeting with them the same day they're contacted. They keep clinics open late to accommodate families' schedules and

network with other service organizations to reach families in need. And in some cases, they even make home visits for families who might otherwise not be able to tap into their services.

"We've made a science of overcoming every obstacle to care," Flora said.

No medical diagnosis is required to seek help, and services are completely confidential. The only way a counselor can share information on a case is with written permission of the family member. "There's guaranteed clinical confidentiality," Harms said.

Flora said he considers the services the Vet Centers provides grieving military families "a sacred trust" that reflects the VA's commitment to veterans and their families. "We're meeting these families at one of the most traumatic points in their lives and helping to assist the family as it rebuilds itself," he said. "This is sacred business."

Referrals for grief counseling come through military casualty assistance offices, the VA and veterans service organizations. The largest number of referrals comes from TAPS, the non-profit Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which offers what Harms calls "incredible peer-to-peer support" but no professional bereavement counseling services.

Families requesting more information or services can also contact the VA's Readjustment Counseling Service directly at (202) 273-9116 or by e-mail at [vet.center@hq.med.va.gov](mailto:vet.center@hq.med.va.gov).

*By Donna Miles*

*American Forces Press Service*

*From the United States Department of Defense website at [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2005/20050302\\_67.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2005/20050302_67.html)*



## Women & Weights Course Coming to Base Fitness Center

Tired of your old routine? Try the 4-week advance Women & Weights Course offered by Carolyn Hauser (certified with the American Council on Exercise) being held at the Scott AFB Fitness Center.

This four-week course will run every

Tuesday & Thursday, **April 5-28**, from 8:30-10 am. Cost is \$100 per person and there is a limit of six participants per class. Participants must be familiar with machines and free weights.

Some of the benefits of strength training are increased metabolism, in-

creased bone density, reduction in body fat, improved posture & appearance and an increase in physical strength. The emphasis of this Women & Weights Course will be on Abs & Buns. For additional questions or to sign up, please call Carolyn Hauser at 628-1871.



## Financial Fitness Forum Seminars

The following seminars are offered by the Family Support Center. Call 256-8668 to sign up or for more information.

### To Your Credit

5 April, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Learn how to:

- Identify a credit report and how it is used
- Read credit reports
- Identify ways to start repairing your credit
- Recognize credit repair scams

### Charge it Right

19 April, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Learn how to:

- Identify credit card characteristics
- Determine the cost of using a credit card
- Recognize potential problems with credit card use



## Notable April Events

### Month of the Military Child

Special events/displays at many base facilities

### National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Learn more at <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>

### National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Learn more at <http://www.nsvrc.org/>

### National Victim's Rights Week (10-16 April)

Learn more at <http://www.ovcttac.org/>

## Helpful Websites



### Annual Credit Report

<https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

This central site allows you to request a free credit file disclosure, commonly called a credit report, once every 12 months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You can also request your report by phone or mail. Eligibility for an annual free credit report is determined by your state of residence based on the rollout schedule set by federal law. Midwest states, to include Illinois and Missouri, are eligible as of 1 March, 2005.

A credit file disclosure provides you with all of the information in your credit file maintained by a consumer reporting company that could be provided by the consumer reporting company in a consumer report about you to a third party, such as a lender. A credit file disclosure also includes a record of everyone who has received a consumer report about you from the consumer reporting company within a certain period of time ("inquiries"). The credit file disclosure includes certain information that is not included in a consumer report about you to a third party, such as the inquiries of companies for pre-approved offers of credit or insurance and account reviews, and any medical account information which is suppressed for third party users of consumer reports. You are entitled to receive a disclosure copy of your credit file from a consumer reporting company under Federal law and the laws of various states.

*AnnualCreditReport.com* is the only service authorized by Equifax, Experian and TransUnion for this purpose. Please note that, as a security precaution, consumers should never provide their personal information to any other company or person in connection with requesting free annual credit reports under the FACT Act. This site will not approach consumers via e-mail, telemarketing or direct mail solicitations.

## Expeditionary Family Event Calendar for April 2005

Date	Event & Time	Location	Phone
1	<b>Brown Bag Reunion Lunch, 11:30 am-12:30 pm</b>	<b>Family Support Center</b>	<b>256-8668</b>
5	Comm. Youth Transition & Education Council, 1:00 pm	375AW Conference Room	256-9595
8	Blue Bow 6.5 Mile 4 Person Relay Race, 8:00 am	Parade Grounds	256-1218
8	Give Parents a Break, 6:00-10:00 pm	Child Development Center & Youth Center	256-8668
11	Kids Klub, 5:00-7:00 pm	Scott Club	744-1333
12	Enlisted Spouses' Club Meeting, 7:00 pm	Hospital Dining Hall (basement)	233-4690
13	Officers' Spouses' Club Meeting, 10:30 am	Scott Club	746-4033
15	<b>Free Spaghetti Dinner, 5:00-7:00 pm</b>	<b>Pronto Pizza</b>	<b>256-8668</b>
19	Book Discussion Group, 6:30 pm	Library	256-5100
21	Key Spouse Meeting, 6:00 pm	Family Support Center	256-8668
23	Duck Derby/Youth Fair, 10:00 am-1:30 pm	Youth Center	744-9862

**Note: Events in bold are specifically Expeditionary Family Events for families of deployed members**

This newsletter is a product of the Scott AFB Integrated Delivery System (IDS) Team.  
Find more helpful information online at <http://public.scott.amc.af.mil/review/integrated/index.cfm>.